















# Tucson Mountain District (West)

## Weekly Interpretive Program Descriptions



<b>Adaptation: Recipe for Survival</b> 	Take a 30 minute, 100 yard walk in our Cactus Garden Walk to discover some physical and behavioral adaptations of desert plants.
<b>Birds of Saguaro National Park</b>	Join an experienced birding guide to see some of the 25 species of birds that are year-round residents of the Park. You may also see some migrants still in the area as they move to their summer haunts. This 2 mile, 3 hour walk will also help you identify some wildflowers.
<b>Conversation about a Coyote</b> 	Coyotes are often seen in the desert, usually early in the morning or in the twilight and can be heard at night. While similar animals, like the wolves, have struggled to survive, the coyote can be found in a vast geographic range. Come join an interactive discussion about this intriguing animal.
<b>Day in the Life of a Hohokam Woman</b> 	Take a 40 minute, 100 yard walk in our Cactus Garden Walk to discover how a Hohokam Woman may have used the plants for medicinal solutions and food for her family.
<b>Desert Sojourn</b>	Come along on a one hour, ½ mile stroll at the “old water hole” where you will find out why this human perceived “harsh” environment is “Heaven on earth” for animals and plants.
<b>Geology of the Tucson Mountains</b> 	This 25 minute patio program explores how the Tucson Mountains came to be where they are now, their composition and forces that built and continue to shape them.
<b>God’s Dog &amp; Desert “Pigs”</b> 	An introduction to two of our most common desert mammals: the coyote and the javelina.
<b>Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant</b> 	A 49 minute, 100 yard walk and presentation on some astonishing reasons why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.
<b>Living Speed Bumps</b> 	A park naturalist gives the amazing details of a recent park study and raises serious questions about the long-range ecological effects of road kill, in your own neighborhood as well as in Tucson.
<b>Messages From the Past</b>	Come along on a ½ mile leisurely 1 ½ hour walk to Signal Hill to view and enjoy evidence that the people of the past have left behind.
<b>Moon Take Night Make Day</b>	This gentle, relatively flat 3 hour, 2 ½ mile hike up a desert wash is during the transition from day to night. Enjoy the sunset and stroll in the moonlit desert. <b>RESERVATION REQUIRED call 520 733-5158</b>
<b>Moonrise Over the Mountain</b> 	This campfire talk on the patio of the Red Hills Visitor Center allows a relaxing view of the full moon as it rises above the cactus forest. Please bring a lawn chair and warm clothing (even a blanket) for this 45 minute talk.

<b>Rattlers!</b> 	Join a Park Naturalist for approximately 30 minutes to explore the life and lore, myths and misunderstandings concerning one of the desert Southwest’s most intriguing icons.
<b>Romance in the Desert</b> 	The desert is a place that can tug at your heart strings. Meet the romantic desert characters like the jousting knight and the suitor with the Stradivarius.
<b>Signs of Life in the Desert</b>	A 30 minute, ½ mile walk around the Red Hills Visitors’ Center to look for evidence of animal life.
<b>Snakes, Lizards, and Tortoises</b> 	A 40 minutes patio presentation on communication skills, special adaptations and defense systems of these often misunderstood creatures. A little bit of folk lore is also shared.
<b>Sunset Hike</b>	This 3 ½ to 4 hour, 3 ½ mile round trip hike that climbs 700 feet to a ridgeline for the sunset and then returns under the moonlight. <b><i>RESERVATION REQUIRED call 520 733-5158</i></b>
<b>“Thelma”, the Desert Tortoise</b>	Spy on the tortoise’s private life and learn to track them with radiotelemetry.
<b>Those Who Came Before</b> 	A 40 minute patio presentation on the Hohokam (those who are gone), who inhabited this area from A.D. 300 to A.D. 1450.
<b>Twilight Hikes</b>	1.8 to 2.4 miles long (depending on leader and the group) and takes about 2 to 2 ½ hours. The terrain is sandy, with some rock outcroppings. The meeting point is the trail head of King Canyon. <b><i>RESERVATION REQUIRED call 520 733-5158</i></b>
<b>Wandering up the Wash</b>	A 1.5 hrs., 2 mile round trip. Come with us and enjoy wandering up the wash while a naturalist takes you back in years to experience Saguaro’s natural and cultural heritage. You will learn some of the early mining and CCC camp history, learn about the plants that have survived in the desert for centuries, see petroglyphs that were carved into the rocks between A.D. 300 and A.D. 1450. Participants should bring water and sun protection. Closed toed shoes are highly recommended with good gripping soles. We meet on the patio of the Red Hills Visitors’ Center.

*Schedule subject to change, please call the visitor center for updates*  
*Visitor Center Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily*  
*(Mountain Standard Time)*  
[www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu)

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